



Washington Historical Society Newsletter

FALL 2015 EDITION

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Season's Greetings from the Board of Directors of the Washington Historical Society.

We have had a busy year with many visitors to our three buildings, the Museum, the Barn and the School House in East Washington. We ran six successful programs at Camp Morgan Lodge which ranged in subject matter from a 12,000 year archaeological dig in Keene, to draft animals in the White Mountain National Forest, to local birds and flowers.

We painted the East Washington School House. Many thanks to those who made this happen. Jack Sheehy and Marian Baker scraped the old paint off and then Ed and Jane Thayer and Jim and Marianne Garvin took over. They painted, they fixed the flag pole, they made a new permanent sign over the door and we are all grateful to them.

We ran two successful fund raisers, the Pie Sale at the 4th of July Flea Market and the Pot Roast Dinner in August. Society members contributed their skill and their time. Gwen Gaskell and Vivian Clark cooked a delicious meal.

We currently are operating without a president. Jack Sheehy served the Society well during his term as president. While we are thankful for this we also wish that there is someone out there who would like to take the helm. Historical Societies operate with volunteers. We need more. Join us in preserving Washington's history.

To those who lived through our historic winter last year, we are hoping this winter will be more normal. However we had terrific crops of berries and nothing can account for the absolute abundance of apples this Fall. Trees bore apples where they never had in over 50 years.

Have a good winter.

District #5 Schoolhouse

by Gwen Gaskell

Many people do not know that the district No. 5 school House in East Washington belongs to the Historical Society. In 1988 the school board no longer wanted the care and upkeep of the building and offered it to the society for \$1.00 with the stipulation that it would be retained as a school and would revert back to the school district if the W.H.S. dissolved or could no longer afford the maintenance. This was approved in 1989.

Katherine Dunleavy set up a trust fund with the help of donations from others who were also students in the school. The interest was meant to provide maintenance of the building – we all know what has happened to interest rates, we are lucky to get \$12.00 per year. That doesn't go far! If the WHS were to disband, these funds would be turned over to the Trustees of the Trust Funds of the Town of Washington.

The school closed in June of 1938, reunions were often held there by students but as the numbers grew smaller they stopped. For several years after the Society acquired it there was a Schoolhouse Committee which held a cookout and white elephant sale, with entertainment on a Sunday during the summer. Then in 1998 that committee disbanded due to lack of interest and the responsibility reverted back to the board of directors.

The class room looks the same today as it did when it was an active school with the exception of a couple of older desks that were salvaged from the Penniman school and a more modern one from the center school. The additional desks were brought to #5 to have all the school artifacts together in one place. The old maps and books are in place and the blackboards have a list of teachers who taught in the school. There never was electricity in the building and no running water, just a jug in the entry way closet for drinking or washing hands after using the “out house” which was/is outside on either side of the wood shed.

In 1990 the granite block foundation had to be straightened and drainage was put in under the building.

In 1998 the windows were removed, scraped, primed, glass reset and re-glazed and painted, then lexan was attached on the outside to protect them from the weather and damage. In 2002 the roof had to be replaced which was a big and expensive project.

The clapboards are old and don't hold paint well so that is a constant problem. This summer Jack Sheehy and Marian Baker scraped the old paint off and then Ed and Jane Thayer and Jim and Marianne Garvin took over. They painted, they fixed the flag pole, they made a new permanent sign over the door and we are all grateful to them. A HUGE Thanks goes to these neighbors for their helping hands.

According to the deed “In the event the grantee (WHS) shall be dissolved, or, determines that it can no longer maintain said premises,----- it shall revert back to the grantor(School Board)”

The Historical Society is sadly made up of older people who find it very difficult to do this work. We would love to have a younger group step forward to help with projects, earn volunteer hours for school and learn the history of our town, thus take pride in the place they call “HOME”.



Tom Talpey took this photo of the freshly painted District #5 Schoolhouse

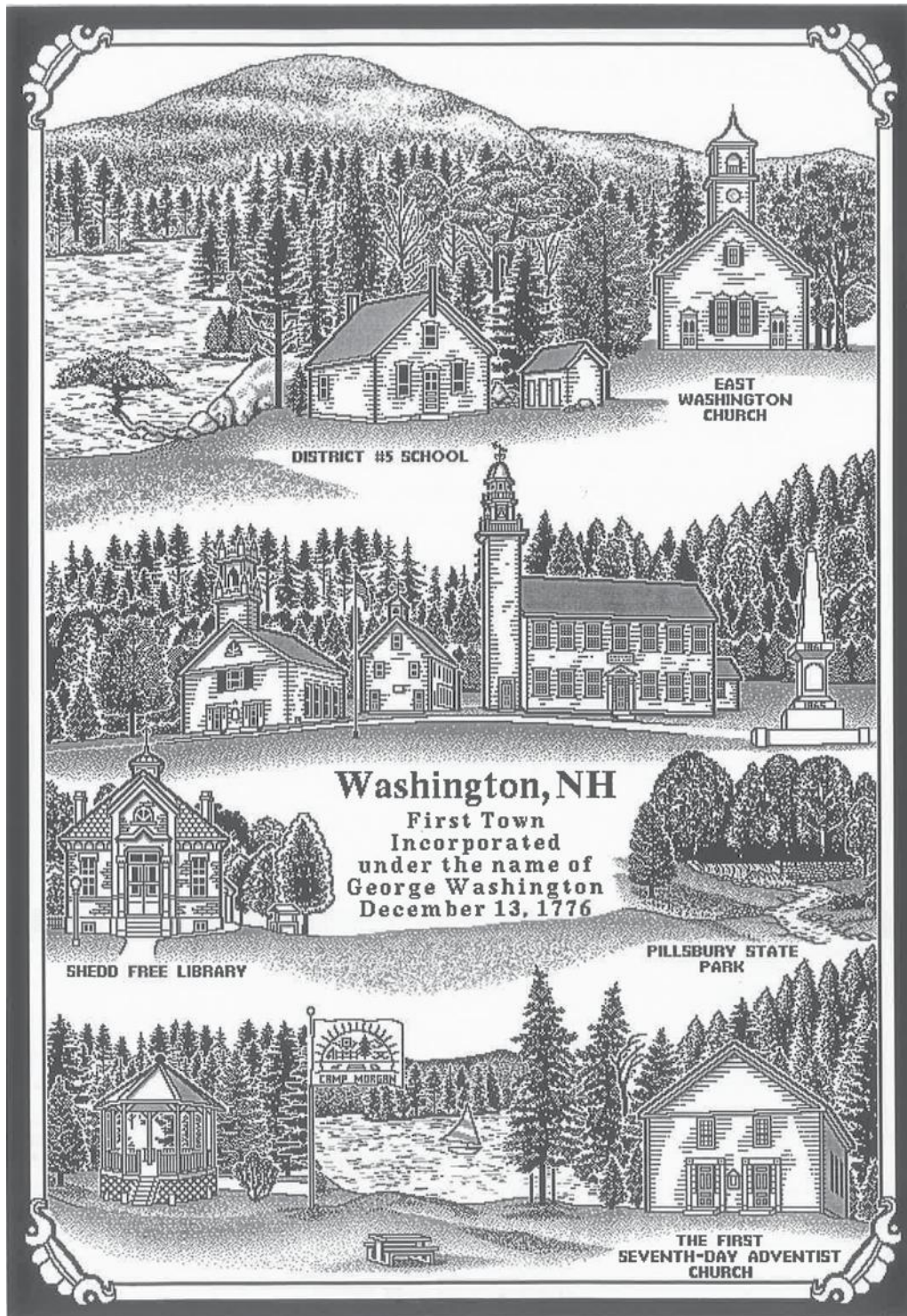
Washington Historical Society Officers

President:		Barn Committee:	Phil Barker Richard Crane, advisory
Vice President:	Phil Barker (495-3640)	Museum Committee:	Charlotte Treadwell Gwen Gaskell
Treasurer:	Elaine Crandall (495-3416)	Museum Aide:	Gail Revane
Secretary:	Marian Baker	Newsletter Committee:	Gwen Gaskell Tom Talpey Barbara Gaskell Betty Talpey
Archivist:	Gwen Gaskell (495-3231)	Program/Publicity Committee:	Tom Talpey Elaine Crandall Pete Martin
Board of Directors	Pauline Laprade (495-1151) Tom Talpey (495-3284) Pete Martin		
Auditor:			
Webmaster:	Phil Budne		

The Washington Afghan has been reordered by popular request!


The society gift shop has been out of this popular item for a few years and we have had some requests, so the board of directors have reordered. By the end of October the shipment of green or blue on off white background will arrive. We realize that we have quite a few new residents that may enjoy one of these as well as children that have grown up and are making their own homes. They make great holiday gifts.

**Get your order in now so you can plan to pick them up to save postage costs.
The price is \$45.00, great that the price has not gone up!**

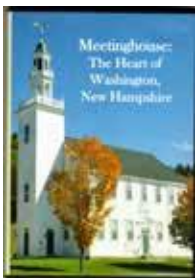


**ITEMS FOR SALE
FEATURING FAVORITE LANDMARKS OF
WASHINGTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

Please order by mail, or call: Elaine Crandall (603) 495-3416, ecrandall@verizon.net
Tom Talpey (603) 495-3284. ttalpey@gsinet.net
Gwen Gaskell (603) 495-3231 jimgwen@gsinet.net

ITEM DESCRIPTION	PRICE
Tote Bag. This custom designed tapestry tote bag depicts the much photographed buildings on our Town Common. Tapestry woven in an array of beautiful colors, it measures a generous 17 1/2 inches square. Long 25 inch handles are easy on the shoulders. Lined, with inside pocket.	\$30.00
Pillow. Featuring the East Washington Baptist Church, the pillow is covered in tapestry woven in an array of beautiful colors. It measures a generous 16" x 16" and is offered with hunter green backing.	\$25.00
Puzzle. Our 494-piece, 14" x 19" puzzle is an aerial photograph of the Washington town center by Bill St. Pierre. A limited edition collectible.	\$5.00
Mug. White ceramic mug with sketch of the three steepled buildings in the center of Town. They are 11 ounce and can be used in the microwave and dishwasher. White mugs with black print.	\$5.00
Trivet. A 6" x 6" ceramic trivet, or tile, suitable for hot or cold, with a leather backing, featuring a color photograph of the three steepled buildings in the center of town. Gift boxed.	\$15.00
Gustine Hurd Images Postcards Two postcards have been generated, using copies of very old photographs taken in the early 1880s by Gustine Hurd. Also available as single fold notecards packaged in sets of four, including envelopes. Two of each or all four of the same image. Both the postcards and the folded notecards are 5 1/2 x 4 1/4 inches.	50¢ each \$5.00 per set
 <p>Glass Medallion – Suitable for a window hanging, depicting the Town Hall. Adapted from an early 1880s wet plate photograph made by Gustine L. Hurd. These 3 inch diameter medallions are available in Blue or Green.</p>	\$5.00 each

DVD Available



Meetinghouse: The Heart of Washington, New Hampshire
Few structures say "New England" as eloquently as does a classic eighteenth century Meetinghouse. The small hill town of Washington, New Hampshire, claims such a Meetinghouse. Erected on the 4th of July, 1787, it is still the heart of the town. In this film the town opens its heart to the world. It displays 225 years of affectionate, sometimes contentious, interplay between generations of Washington citizens and the Meetinghouse on the Town Common.

\$20 per DVD Shipping is: \$3 for one DVD plus \$2 for each additional.

All items can be shipped for an additional charge. Call or email Elaine Crandall or Tom Talpey at the contact info above to ascertain the amount required. It will be in the range of \$4 to \$10 per package, depending on your zip code.

More on Local Wild Orchids

by Tom Talpey

A recent field guide which I have been using, *Orchids of New England & New York* by Tom Nelson & Eric Lamont (2012), states that there are 54 native wild orchids in New Hampshire. My article in the Spring 2015 issue of our Newsletter described eight which I have found and photographed in the Town of Washington, plus two which grow in the nearby Philbrick-Cricenti Bog in New London.

One of the orchids in the Philbrick-Cricenti Bog, which I apologize for mis-identifying in my article as an *Arethusa*, is in fact the so-called Grass Pink orchid, *Calopogon tuberosus*. A better portrait of the plant, which I took in New London this past June, shows clearly the bearded crest of the blossom. (*Calopogon* is derived from the Greek words meaning “beautiful beard.”)

This past summer, our keen-eyed Secretary spotted an additional wild orchid in Hillsboro Upper Village, less than three miles from the Washington Town border. It is the so-called Ragged Fringed orchid, *Platanthera lacera*, pictured here. I have been told that there are some growing today near the edge of a field in the Town of Unity and we have a newspaper clipping from 1912 which documents this orchid as growing at that time near Millen Pond, so it seems likely that there are presently still some in Washington. However, I have not yet been able to find them, although I have great hopes for better luck looking again next summer.

To further emphasize my concerns about picking or trying to transplant any of the wild orchids, I can add two observations. The photograph of the “Ladies’ Tresses orchid” in our Spring issue was taken about six years ago. When I went back to check on it this past summer, I could no longer find the patch. It was in a grassy area which gets mowed nearly every year and I suspect that the constant mowing has wiped it out at that location. “Extirpated”, as the conservationists might say. The second example is the photograph in our last issue of the “Round-leaved orchid.” The picture was taken at least 15 years ago and there were two plants of it growing in a drainage ditch along the side of the road. Within the last few years the ditch has been widened and a culvert added to improve drainage. This summer there was no evidence of the plant ever having been there. The species is not a particularly rare one, but it is the only location that I am aware of in the Town of Washington where I could count on finding it every year. There certainly may be others, but it is a further example of how the “growth of civilization” is inadvertently disturbing the habitats of some of our less common native plants.



Grass Pink
Calopogon tuberosus



Ragged Fringed
Platanthera lacera



Our "over 80" piano tuner, Eugene Rowe, came to tune our Square Grand on July 18th. He thinks our piano is a gem and held the first tuning well as it has been two winters since it was first done. We love to have people come to play it .

Our Square Grand Piano by Gwen Gaskell

Many of you know that the square grand piano which we were given about 5 years ago by Dave & Monica Wood came out of the home formerly owned by the Hurd family. I suspected that it had come to Washington when Fred Hurd sold his home in Wellington and that it had probably belonged to his first wife, who died in 1897, as her family was in the music business. Last winter the Historical Society was given a very generous gift of another collection of items from that family and in going through those items I find that I was both right and wrong!

Fred did sell his Wellington home in 1913. Alice May, his sister, was raising his daughter who was taking piano lessons and doing "very well". They came to Washington each summer and "Aunto" wanted Jennie to have a piano to practice on during the summer "so she won't forget what she had learned". They did have a piano in Mass. Ida Ball was a neighbor and had this piano for sale, Alice paid \$12.00 for it on March 11th, 1913. On that date she recorded the no. of the piano & it matches!

Airplane Crashes in Pillsbury State Reservation

by Phil Barker

This could have been the headline at the time. (Mid 1950's)
Washington, N.H.

A private plane with one occupant who was coming to visit Jerry Leeds, the resident caretaker of Pillsbury State Reservation, for the Thanksgiving holiday, circled low over the area as a signal for Mr. Leeds to drive to Newport and pick him up at the airport. However the meeting did not take place since the plane was too low and in the darkness his wings clipped some tree tops and the plane crashed. The pilot was killed. A search team found the wreckage in the ditch line of Mad Road about one half mile from the caretakers residence, which was located near the barn and Boarding House on the north end of May Pond.

As a youngster I recall that a truck and trailer had to access the crash site by going in Mad Road from Rt. 31 and around Bacon Pond to recover the wreckage. When they came out they stopped at Barker's Store in Washington, I saw the remains of the plane on the trailer. This happened in the early 1950's. Several years later a friend of mine found a leather glove near the site, there were finger bones in it....

Halloween is gone by but this is kind of spooky!!

Washington Historical Society
PO Box 90
Washington, NH 03280

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES are \$10 for an individual and \$15 for a family (including children under 16). For those who would like to contribute more to the Society to help us cover our expenses, we have a new sustaining membership for \$25. The membership year is August 1 through July 31. We appreciate your continued interest and support of our projects. New members are always welcome. If you would like to join us as a member, please complete the form below and send to THE WASHINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, P.O. Box 90, Washington, N.H., 03280. If you know of someone who might be interested in our newsletter, please let us know or pass this one on to them.

Name: _____

Participating family names: _____

Mailing address: _____

_____ Zip Code: _____

Phone No. Winter: _____ Summer: _____ Cell: _____

Email _____

Membership Level: \$10 Individual \$15 Family \$25 Sustaining

PLEASE NOTE: As a non-profit historical society, we qualify with many companies for matching grants provided the company you work for, or are retired from, supports such benefits.

Email: washingtonhistoricalsociety@hotmail.com